File Comms
(n CDS)

ODP 0-232
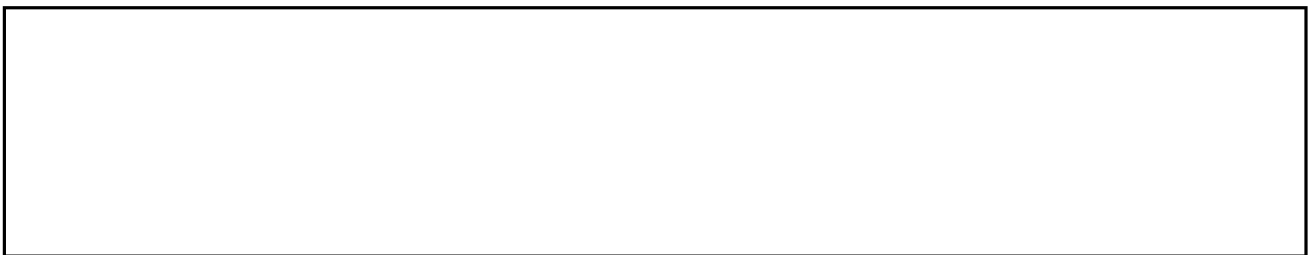
MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Communications

STAT   FROM:

Deputy Director for Processing, ODP

SUBJECT: Future Plans for CDS

1.   Thank you for letting me have the opportunity to participate in your review of CDS.

2.   I think everyone would agree that CDS has some serious problems. The requirements levied on CDS have increased over the years but unfortunately the system has not been able to respond to the change. The reason is simply that it was designed for special purpose hardware and software to do a set of specific tasks. It is, therefore, not surprising that it is difficult and expensive to add computing power, input/output capability, and additional user features. There are numerous examples to prove the axiom that if the hardware and software are not initially designed to allow for expansion, then it indeed becomes an impossible chore.

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4.   A review of CDS would not be complete without a look at the message processing system in ODP. It has now been several years since the users in CIA have started asking for their traffic in electrical form rather than hard copy. As the requirement for electronic mail surfaced, the most natural place to provide this facility was CDS. It looks at each message, decides on its dissemination and then routes the output to the proper location. CDS, however, was not flexible enough to handle this electronic output, so that a new system had to be created within the Ruffing Center.

5.   The ODP system takes data from CDS, segregates it by customer, and initiates jobs periodically during the day which updates customer files. ODP has spent over 4 man years on development and maintenance costs for this system. The Office of Communications is now reviewing an ODP proposal that calls for a less cumbersome and smoother flow of data between CDS and customer files. This effort is estimated to take an additional 2 1/2 man years of ODP effort. CDS modifications will also be necessary. This switch away from paper to electrical mail will grow at an even more rapid rate with SAFE, CRAFT, and the VM electronic mail system that is currently under development.

6.   In looking at the current state of affairs and the need for even more requirements that must be satisfied, it is fairly clear to me that CDS is now being pushed past its useful systems life. To continually throw hardware and software dollars at a system that cannot be easily expanded is wasteful. The lesson to be learned from the CDS experience is that the follow-on to it must be developed using general purpose hardware and software that is dedicated to just the cable dissemination function. Proper hardware backup can be provided to meet high availability requirements.

7.   With this approach, additional disk, memory and CPU power can be added with little difficulty. It would be similar to the hardware upgrades that occur routinely throughout the year in the Ruffing Center. Unlike CDS, these changes occur with little or no changes necessary by the applications programs that are resident in the computer. The gains you would receive on the software side would be equally as appealing. If the software is designed and coded properly it would allow for orderly enhancements and modifications. You will have a far easier time finding personnel to maintain the software if it is written in a common higher level language (i.e., PL/1).

8.   This new look must include both CDS and ODP's message processing system. They are both an integral part of the same system. Questions like how long will it take and how much will it cost can only be answered after a complete review of the requirements are completed. I would recommend that this study be started immediately. With proper staffing it could be completed within 4 months. As an outside guess there could be a new system in production running on general purpose hardware and software in approximately 30 months if sufficient resources were allocated.

9.   In order to meet the SAFE and DDO requirements between now and the next 30 months, I would freeze the existing [   ] STAT system. Additional hardware and software can be added to process the data from CDS for the electrical interface. This will be a patchwork system, but it should provide you with the time necessary for the total redesign of CDS.

10. In summary, I would offer the following recommendations:

   a. Freeze the current CDS system until a new system is in production.

   b. Cancel [   ] if it does not help you during the next 30 months.   STAT

   c. Add additional hardware and software (PDP) on the output side of CDS in order to satisfy the electrical interface requirement for 1981.

   d. Cancel the upgrade to ODP's message processing system.

   e. Immediately begin a development cycle that will result in a system operating on general purpose hardware and software. This system should include CDS plus ODP's message processing system. The emphasis in the new system will be the requirement to satisfy the Agency's processing of electronic mail that will occur during the 1980's.

[   ]   STAT

DDA Registry | 79-0230/3 |

ODP # *4-524*

3 0 MAR 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, National Foreign Assessment Center

FROM: Clifford D. May, Jr.
Associate Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Cable Dissemination

REFERENCE: Your memorandum of 22 March 1979, same subject

1. In response to referenced memorandum I have instructed the Office of Communications and the Office of Data Processing to proceed in the implementation of Option 1. I will advise you when we have a firm schedule. I have asked the OC budget officer to work with your budget office on the transfer of funds for the terminal procurement.

2. It occurs to us that there may be advantages to locating the terminal in the Cable Secretariat rather than the Operations Center. In this manner we can better use the facility to service other non-NFAC distribution requirements and can avoid splintering the distribution function. I suggest that our representatives explore this matter in greater detail before we settle on the final location of the terminal.

3. I agree that this step must be viewed as an interim measure. Hopefully SAFE will provide the long-term solution, at least for NFAC.

STAT

Clifford D. May, Jr.

Distribution:
Original - Addressee
1 - D/ODP/DDA
1 - D/CO/DDA
1 - DDA

1-3 Hetras
ODP will not buy but will probably maintain. NFAC will prepare ... on OC funds

STAT

Memorandum are Unclassified